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Caracteristic of Toponymic Generics in New Brunswick

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Résumé de l'article

Le Nouveau-Brunswick possède une grande variété de terminologies toponymiques incluant jusqu'à 10 génériques pour les eaux courantes, 30 pour les eaux calmes, 12 pour les terrains plats, 18 pour les parties élevées et 11 pour les dépressions. Bien que cette variété soit impressionnante, un même terme peut décrire des types de phénomènes très différents, tel *gully* qui désigne à la fois une dépression et un chenal côtier étroit.

90 des 132 termes exposés dans cet article sont issus de la langue anglaise, les autres appartenant à la langue française, à l'exception de *bogan, padou* et *mocauque,* dérivés de sources amérindiennes.

Un bon nombre de toponymes ne se retrouvent que dans certaines parties du territoire, tels *bogan* et *gulch* au nord de la province, et *heath* et *thoroughfare* au sud du Nouveau-Brunswick. Il y a aussi quelques divergences régionales dans la description des traits du paysage, ainsi *meadow* près d'Oromocto et *marsh* près de Sackville identifient des phénomènes identiques.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TOPONYMIC GENERICS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

by

Alan RAYBURN

Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, Ottawa

INTRODUCTION

From August 1967 to August 1969 this writer investigated New Brunswick's geographical names in the field. The principal aims of the study were the acquisition of previously unrecorded names (approximately 8 000), the correction of errors (approximately 1 500 of the existing stock of 7 500), the updating of the provincial gazetteer (first edition, 1954 ; second edition, 1972), and the accumulation of material on origins and usage of geographical names [1]. During the course of the study considerable information was obtained on the use and distribution patterns of generics. In addition some terms previously unrecorded (e.g. mocauque, padou, pointu) on federal topographic maps were recommended for future use.

While the main purpose of this paper is to provide information on the variety and the geographical distribution of terms within the 28 000-square-mile province of New Brunswick, a secondary and indirect purpose is also intended : to acquaint those who find themselves in positions of being able to name features, such as geographers and geologists in Canada's northland, with the complexity that certain terms have so that they will exercise as much judgment in the selection of generic terms as they do in choosing the specific identifiers. For example, when one identifies a watercourse with a gradient as a « creek » he should be conscious of the fact that Canadians in the four Atlantic Provinces know such a feature usually as « brook ». As well, there is a large variety of toponymic generics that could be utilized with advantage in other parts of Canada to distinguish specific kinds of water or terrain phenomena.

FLOWING WATER TERMS

New Brunswick may have the largest variety of flowing water terms in Canada. Besides *river* and *brook*, both of which occur throughout the whole province, *creek* occurs in both its American and British senses. The other

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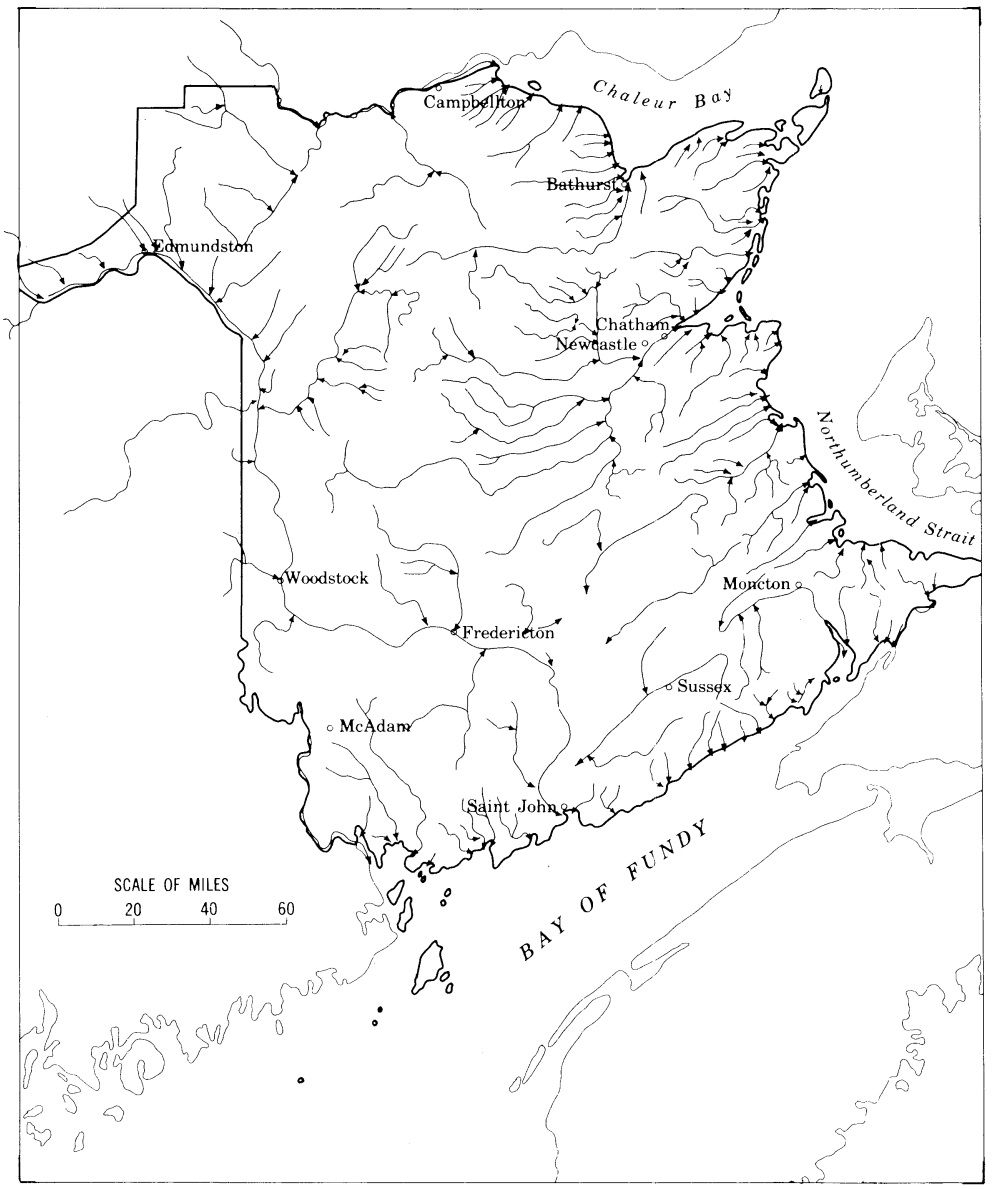
[1] A manuscript in dictionary form has been prepared embracing over 4 000 names, and is to be published by the *Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.*

terms that occur in English to identify flowing water are : *stream, brook, brooks, branch, fork, forks, millstream, outlet, inlet* and *guzzle.* Only the French generics *rivière* and *ruisseau* are used, with the French-speaking population often utilizing the English terms.

River

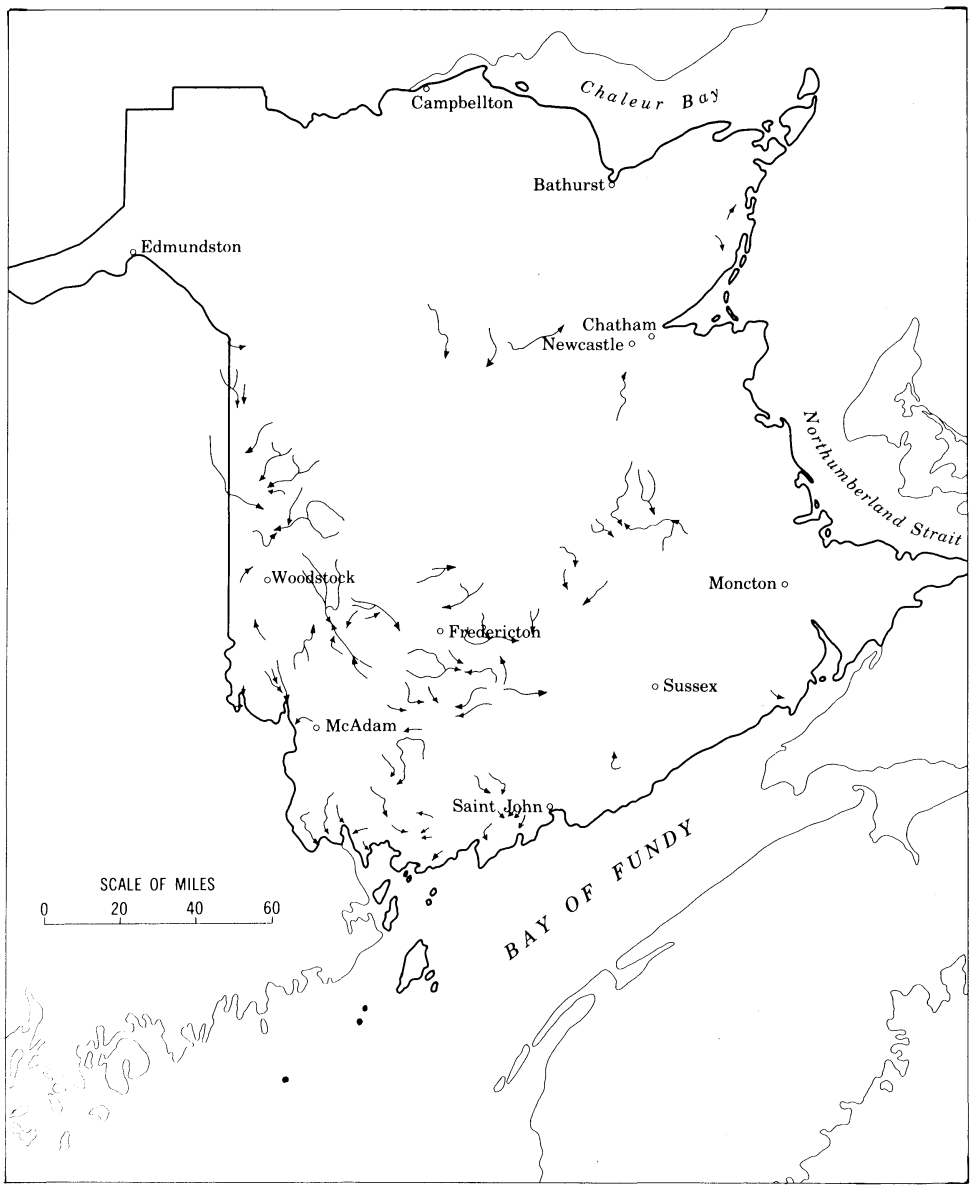
The term identifying the longest flowing water features is *river* (figure 1), and such use is universally accepted in the English-speaking world. *River*

Figure 1 *River*



also applies to some rather minor features such as the four-mile-long Goose River, which flows into the Bay of Fundy only four miles from Goose Creek, a watercourse nearly twice as long. Some features with the term *river* are very small, such as the one-half-mile-long Landrys River on Miscou Island. The French-speaking residents of the North Shore use *rivière* for some tidal inlets, and may refer to this feature as « rivière à Landry », although map usage gives precedence to the English form. Although *fleuve* is the common term in French for principal watercourses flowing into the sea, it is not used

Figure 2 *Stream*



in New Brunswick, the term *rivière* being used for any feature called *river* in English.

In New Brunswick *river* has another distinctive meaning, and this is its use to describe tidal channels between islands. It may have come into use because the tidal rips reminded those who christened them of cascading rapids on watercourses. The two approved uses are Quoddy River between Campobello and Deer Islands, and Indian River between Indian and Deer Islands, both in Passamaquoddy Bay.

Stream

The next generic in the hierarchy is *stream,* which describes 77 features of flowing water in the province (figure 2). Prior to 1967 over half of these features were officially approved with the terms « river » or « creek » ; this may have been due to the reluctance of those who first gathered the specific names for use on topographic maps to recognize *stream* as a discrete generic term. The St. John River has 44 tributaries with *stream,* such as Mactaquac Stream, Nackawic Stream, Becaguimec Stream and Big Presque Isle Stream [2]. Most of the remaining features are tributary to rivers flowing into the Bay of Fundy. There are a few scattered occurrences in northeastern New Brunswick such as Trout Stream near Tracadie with a French-speaking rural community of the same name. The usual French translation for *stream* is « rivière », although in the case of some names, the French-speaking residents retain both the specific and the generic in their English forms.

Creek

In most of English-speaking Canada the term *creek* is used for all features of flowing water except for the few major features called « river ». This is not the case in New Brunswick where creek is used only 50 times for features with their mouths above the head of tide (figure 3). All these occurrences except one are in the St. John River and Petitcodiac River valleys, and reflect the settlement pattern of the Loyalists who had acquired this use of *creek* during residence in the Thirteen Colonies. It seems, as a general observation, that features designated *creek* by the Loyalists provided mill sites, while features designated by other terms such as « brook » did not. In the area of the waters tributary to the Gulf of St. Lawrence only one watercourse has the generic term *creek* above tide, and this is Gin Creek near the head of Kedgwick River, a major tributary of the Restigouche. It would not be surprising to learn that this name was given by a lumberman raised in Central Canada and not by a Maritimer.

The usual English sense of *creek,* that of a tidal inlet, is the more common usage in New Brunswick (as it also is in the other three Atlantic Pro-

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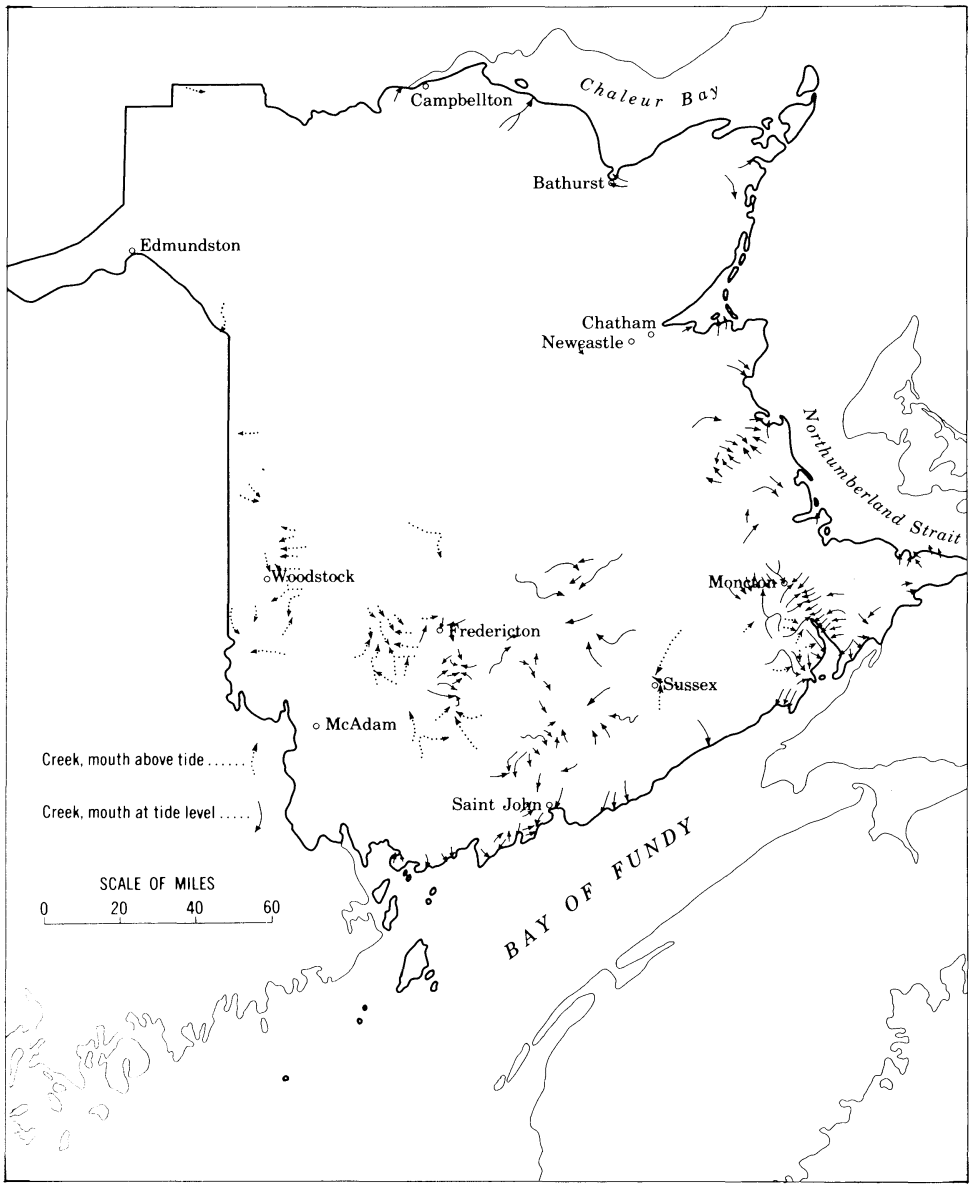
2 Local and official use in Maine is Prestile Stream, pronounced pres-teel, while the name in New Brunswick is pronounced pres-ky-'l.

Figure 3 *Creek*

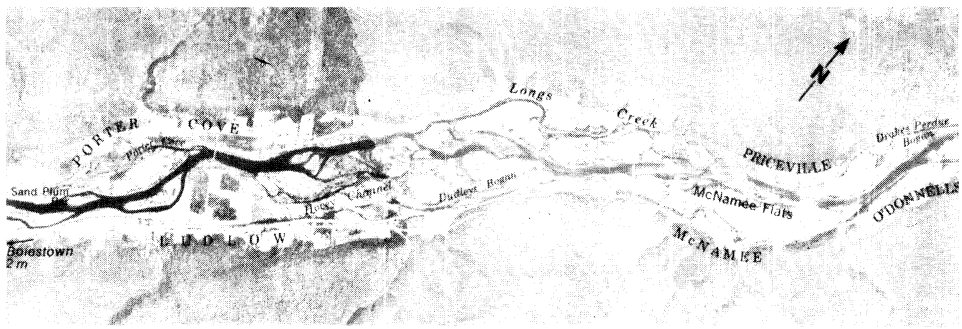


vinces). In many instances a feature designated *creek* in its tidal part receives a distinctive name for its upland part, such as Baie Verte Creek, which becomes Allen Brook above the head of tide, and Milkish Creek which is known as Milkish Brook above the tide. Such distinctions have not been readily understood by mapmakers raised in Central Canada, who have often disregarded one or the other name in the Maritime Provinces because they looked upon the two features as being one. Sometimes a feature known locally as a « creek » has been designated by another term, an example being Milkish Creek, which was officially called Milkish Inlet until 1969.

Creek is also used as a combination of the two meanings ; likely it was applied first to the tidal part, and then extended by cartographers to the upland part because the latter was not considered important enough to have its own name, and because it was the easiest way to inscribe the name. The term is almost invariably pronounced to rhyme with « brick » (which seems to be the common way of saying it throughout North America), and some people interviewed even asked to have it spelled « crick ».

On figure 4 is an illustration of *creek* as an alternative term for « channel ».

Figure 4 *A section of Southwest Miramichi River illustrating the use of such terms as* cove, creek, channel, bogan, flats *and* bar.



Occasionally there is local uncertainty as to the correct term for flowing water features. A good example is Meduxnekeag River, which most residents in Woodstock call simply « The Creek ». Woodstock itself was originally called The Creek, a fact that once led W.O. Raymond, the noted New Brunswick historian, to believe in his youth that « creek » was a generic term for « town ». Keswick River often receives both « stream » and « creek », and Nerepis River is frequently called Nerepis Creek. Tay River has a large farming community at its head called Tay Creek. Newcastle Creek is commonly known as Newcastle Stream above Minto, although a populated place in the municipality of the village of Minto is called Newcastle Creek.

The usual French rendering of *creek* is *ruisseau,* although many of the tidal creeks are called *rivière.* Sometimes the French-speaking people adopt both parts of a name such as Cowans Creek, which is midway between Tracadie and Caraquet. The word *crique,* sometimes used in French-speaking parts of Canada, is not found in New Brunswick. Where a name is locally used with the French term, such as Ruisseau McLaughlin [3] at Tracadie, the

[3] Derived from a family from Scotland that became Acadianized about 1800. Among those with this surname in the Tracadie area are the following : Apollinaire, Dominique, Ejude and Médéric.

practice is to accept it in this form in English rather than arbitrarily impose « creek » or « brook ». While this practice is considered quite defensible by this writer, the usual procedure among French-Canadian toponymists is to seek suitable French equivalents for all English terms, even if the French terms have no local usage.

Brook and Brooks

The most ubiquitous term for flowing water in New Brunswick is *brook.* In some watersheds, such as the Southwest Miramichi and the Restigouche, it is the only term used besides « river » for watercourses above the tide. In the whole Restigouche watershed « river » occurs only seven times, while *brook* is used for over 300 features. The usual French term for similar features is *ruisseau,* although one frequently hears the whole English name, such as Mill Brook, used in French conversation ; where the feature is relatively large compared to adjacent brooks, the term *rivière* is used, such as Rivière Baker-Brook.

The term *brooks* is also used to designate single features. Three Brooks south of Plaster Rock is a feature with two islands in its mouth (like Trois-Rivières at the mouth of the Saint-Maurice in Québec) ; Two Brooks north of Plaster Rock has two branches of similar length ; South Two Brooks and North Two Brooks are tributaries of Upsalquitch River with their mouths directly opposite each other ; Lower Two Brooks and Upper Two Brooks are adjacent features rising on the same slope and entering the Restigouche River close to each other. Care was taken to insure that *brooks* was not just part of the specific, so that a feature might be called Two Brooks Stream, but in no instance was another generic term found to be locally used.

Branch

Branch is quite common in New Brunswick for principal tributaries ; thus Right Hand *Branch* Tobique River and Lower North *Branch* Little Southwest Miramichi River. For many years the authorities tried to excise the term *branch* from Canadian toponymy, but in recent years it has been reinstated where locally used, particularly in a name such as North Branch East Brook, which would lose its precise meaning if *branch* were dropped.

Branch has a second meaning in a full generic sense in scattered locations throughout the province. Sisson Branch flows into Little Tobique River ; Wild Goose Branch and Pemouet Branch unite to become Right Hand Branch Green River ; Inman Branch is the main tributary of Muniac Stream ; Lampedo Branch is a long tributary of Odell River ; Little Ottawa Branch flows into North Branch Renous River ; Branche à Jerry, a tributary of Rivière Baker-Brook, drains Lac Méruimpticook in Québec, where official form is Ruisseau Jerry.

In French the word *branche* is used for some features, but where directional information is intended, the form of appending the directional to the specific is more common, such as Rivière Chockpish-Nord.

Fork and Forks

Both *fork* and *forks* are used to designate single features in New Brunswick. South Forks, North Forks and Little South Forks flow into Coal Branch River, a tributary of Richibucto River. The latter also has Hector Fork, Jimmy Graham Fork and Johnny Graham Fork. Charles Fork and Knox Fork are small watercourses in Madawaska County. Keswick River has a tributary called Jones Forks, with a populated place by the same name.

French-speaking residents use *fourche,* examples being Grande fourche rivière Quisibis and Fourche à Clark.

Millstream

Millstream is used in several names such as Burpees Millstream east of Fredericton and Dingee Millstream near Gagetown. The term is also used as a specific in such names as Millstream River west of Sussex and Millstream River north of Bathurst.

Inlet and Outlet

McDougall Lake in southwestern New Brunswick receives McDougall Inlet and is discharged through McDougall Outlet. Peltoma Lake is drained by Peltoma Outlet. North Renous Lake has a tributary called Northwest Inlet.

Guzzle

Guzzle occurs once in the name Toby Guzzle, a tributary of Digdeguash River near McAdam. The term suggests a very crooked watercourse, and occurs in England to describe a ditch. The surveyors of Magaguadavic River in 1797 used *guzzle* to describe various small streams.

Run

Run, which is common in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, does not occur independently as a generic term in New Brunswick, although two features called First Run Brook and Second Run Brook are in Kings County.

STATIONARY WATER TERMS

Lake

Lake is almost exclusively used for discrete bodies of standing water in New Brunswick. The French equivalent is *lac.* Those who know that *pond* has predominant usage in New England may suppose that the international boundary delimits the use of these two terms. However, the excellent study by Zelinsky shows that the predominance of *lake* over *pond* begins about twenty miles west of the international boundary.[4]

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[4] ZELINSKY, Wilbur, (1955), Some Problems in the Distribution of Generic terms in the Place Names of the Northeastern United States. *Annals of the Assn. of Amer. Geogr.,* Washington, 45 (4): 332.

Pond

The only large upland body of water with *pond* is Whitney Pond in north central New Brunswick, which may have been named by an American sportsman. There are numerous bodies of enclosed water adjoining the tidal part of Oromocto River with the term *pond,* among them being Sunpoke Pond and Waasis Pond. Similar tidal bodies of water are designated *étangs* by the Francophones. The term *mare,* a synonym of étang, occurs in the name Mare d'Anguille, which is near Shippegan.

Flowage

The term *flowage* occurs in southwestern New Brunswick for both shallow natural features and for artificial bodies of water. An example of the former is Canoose Flowage ; of the latter, Grand Falls Flowage near St. Stephen. Not believing that *flowage* was a genuine generic term the Geographic Board of Canada approved the latter as Grand Falls Lake in 1936, while the United States Domestic Names Board adopted the local form. Both designations appear side by side on Canadian topographic map sheet 21 G/6, although the name with « lake » was officially rescinded by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in 1970.

Hole and Pug Hole

These terms occur in several names in southwestern New Brunswick. Examples are Seeley Pond Holes, Travellers Rest Hole and Little Pug Hole.

Deadwater

Deadwater is a common term for an expansion of a river where the water is perceived to be standing. The term is mainly used in the central and southwestern parts of the province, and occurs in such names as Gulquac Deadwater, Pocomoonshine Deadwater, Pocowogamis Deadwater and Long Sluice Deadwater.

Stillwater

Stillwater is also used to describe a feature similar to a deadwater, but it is not as widely used. It usually describes a feature that is shallower and it may have a small perceptible current. An example is The Stillwater on the Serpentine River, a tributary of Right Hand Branch Tobique River, and The Stillwater on Digdeguash River.

Bay

For coastal and lake indentations the top of the hierarchical order is *bay.* It is used for such major features as Bay of Fundy and Chaleur Bay and for such minor features as Salmon Bay in Grand Lake and Baie Saint-Louis near Richibucto.

Mal Bay

Windsors Mal Bay and MacGregors Mal Bay are enclosed bodies of water at sea level on Miscou Island. The derivation of *mal bay* is obscure, with a French origin with the meaning of « bad anchorage » being most likely. The French rendition of the term is *mal baie.*

Barachois

The origin and use of *barachois* in eastern Canada is discussed in papers by Guay [5] and Rayburn [6]. The typical *barachois* is a body of water at sea level enclosed by a sandbar. In New Brunswick it is restricted to areas primarily French-speaking such as Barachois de Pointe-Canot north of Shippegan, Le Barachois north of the mouth of Kouchibouguac River, and Petit Barachois at the thickly settled community of Barachois east of Shediac.

Aboiteau

The word *aboiteau* specifically applies to a dam with a sluice gate that controls water flow. East of Shediac the term has been extended to apply to a water body. Parrsboro Aboiteau in Nova Scotia is a similar extension of the term's use.

Cove

Coastal and lake indentations smaller than bays are known usually as *coves* in New Brunswick. Examples include Seeleys Cove adjacent to the Bay of Fundy, Youngs Cove in Grand Lake and Grande Anse adjacent to Chaleur Bay.

Cove is also used for a narrow backwater inlet adjacent to a flowing water feature, thus being similar to a « bogan » described below. An example is Porter Cove adjacent to the Southwest Miramichi River near Boiestown (figure 4). (*Cove* is also noted below under terrain depression features).

Basin

Water bodies with relatively narrow entrances along the seacoast and in lakes are frequently called *basins* in New Brunswick. Examples on the Bay of Fundy coast are Seeleys Basin and Lepreau Basin. Digdeguash Basin and Magaguadavic Basin are at the heads of the tidal inlets of the two rivers by the same name. At the outlets of both Oromocto and South Oromocto Lakes are features that are strikingly similar that are called in each case The Basin.

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[5] GUAY, Réal, (1970), Choronymie thématique : le Barachois. *Cahiers de géographie de Québec,* 14 (32): 252-256.

[6] RAYBURN, J.A. (1970), English Geographical Names in Canada with Generic Terms of French origin. *The Canadian Cartographer,* Toronto, 7 (2): 88-104.

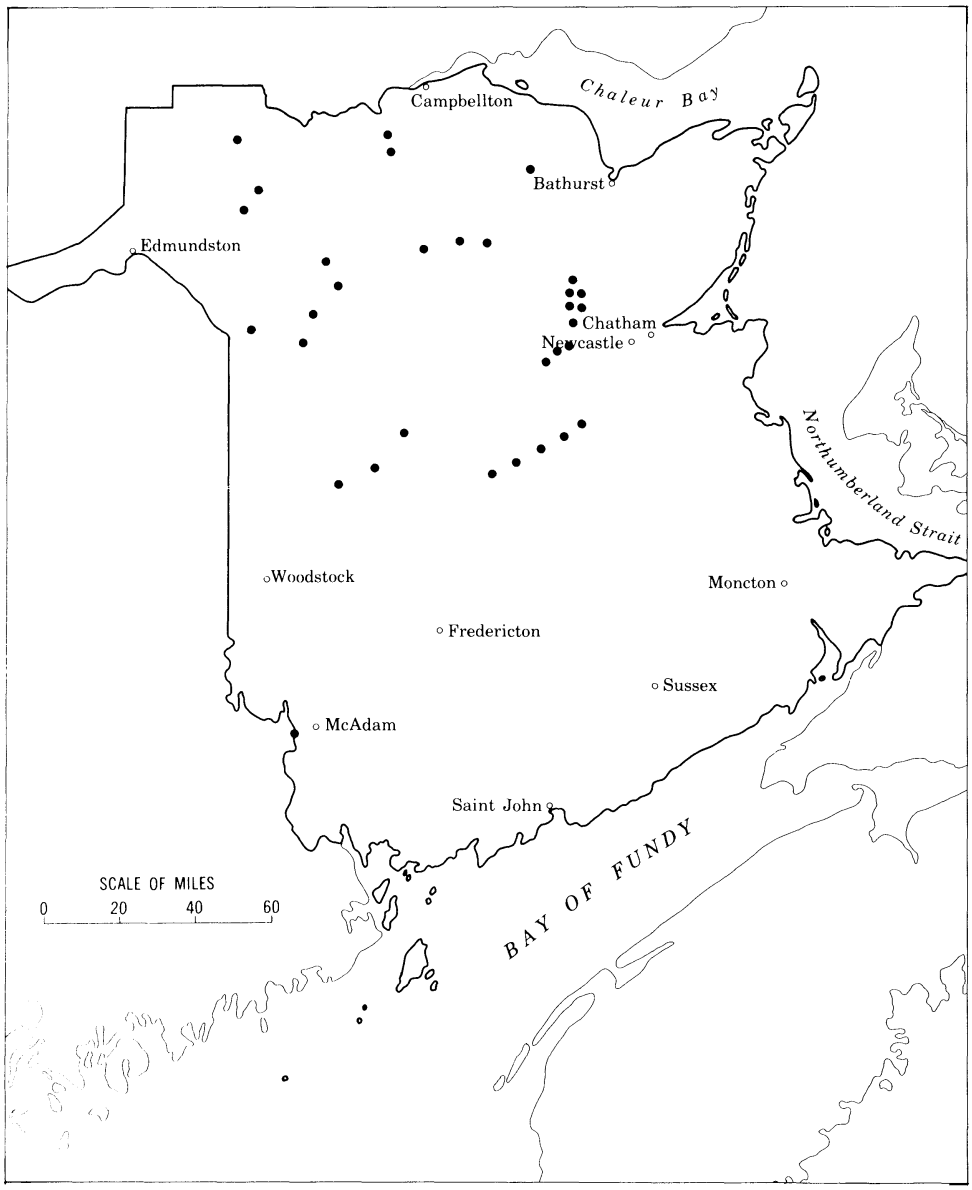
Harbour

Protected water bodies along the seacoast and in lakes are often referred to as *harbours* in New Brunswick. Digdeguash Harbour and Pocologan Harbour are examples on the Bay of Fundy coast, and Douglas Harbour is a feature adjacent to Grand Lake.

Bogan

North of Fredericton and Woodstock the term *bogan* is quite commonly used for narrow backwater inlets beside flowing water. Nearly everyone

Figure 5 *Bogan*

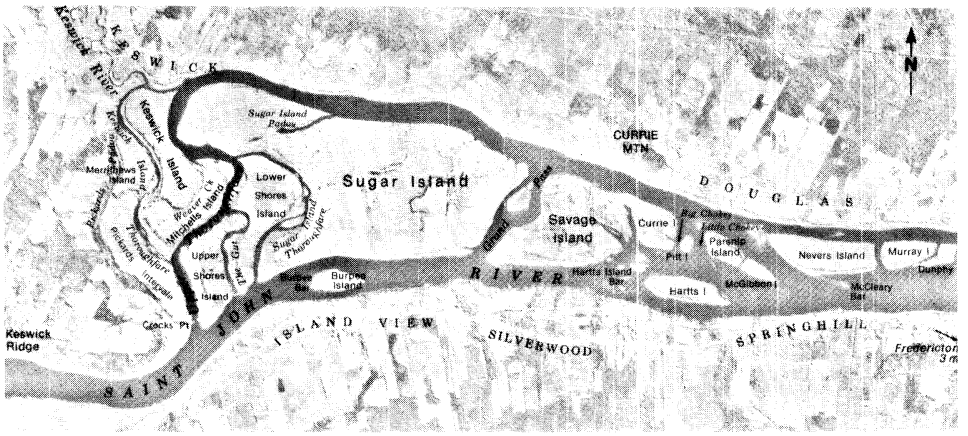


interviewed in northern and central New Brunswick had a clear concept of a bogan and what it identifies. Names with *bogan* are principally in the Restigouche and the Miramichi watersheds (figure 5 ; see also figure 4). The only occurrence south of Fredericton is a feature west of McAdam on the St. Croix River called simply The Bogan. The origins of the word are obscure, but it would appear to be from an Amerindian word for this kind of water feature and to be related to « logan » in Maine.

Padou

A term used in New Brunswick for a feature similar to a bogan, but considerably more obscure is *padou.* It would appear to come from the Maliseet (and may have originally come from the Micmac), was adopted by the French and then taken over by the English in areas where they succeeded the French as settlers. West of Fredericton at the mouth of Keswick

Figure 6 *A section of Saint John River above Fredericton. Among terms illustrated are* thoroughfare, padou, chokey, gut, bar *and* intervale.



River is Pickards Padou (see figure 6) and farther up the St. John River at Prince William used to be two « padous » before the waters of Mactaquac Lake flooded the features in 1967. North of Plaster Rock on the Tobique is Banks of Padou Bogan. French-speaking people around Edmundston still speak of skating on the « padou » in the winter time. In the area of the Southwest Miramichi the variant « perdue » has gained currency so that near Doaktown is Drakes Perdue Bogan, and near Boiestown is a feature formerly known as The Perdue. In commenting on this writer's hesitation to recommend names for use on maps with such an obscure term as *padou,* Meredith Burrill, the well-known American geographer and toponymist, stated : « I would hesitate to recommend anything else ; since the term is used as a common noun for a piece of nature-plus-experience it is a legitimate generic, regardless of regional restriction. If the spelling is invariable I would take it,

if not, the spelling with most to recommend it could be used ».[7] Besides *padou* and *perdue* the variants *bedoo, budoo, pudoo, bordeau, budeaux,* and *spudue* were also found in the records of Dr. W.F. Ganong at the New Brunswick Museum.[8] The form *padou* was found to be the commonest and it appeared equally acceptable to both English and French.

Lead

Among the meadows at the mouth of Portobello Stream, which is east of Fredericton and north of the St. John River, are several inlets of water that lead to brooks and upland terrain, and these are appropriately called *leads* (see figure 7). Among these features with names are Palmer Lead, Coldspring Lead and Brownhouse Lead.

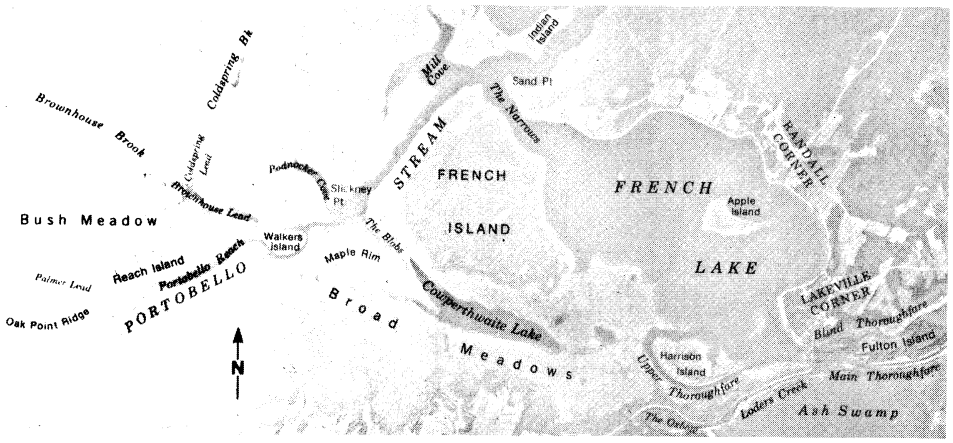
Arm

A term widely used in the English-speaking world for long narrow bodies of water is *arm.* The only example in New Brunswick is Northeast Arm in Grand Lake.

Leg

In west central New Brunswick Trousers Lake appropriately has two features with the term « leg ». They are called Right Hand Leg and Left Hand Leg (the word « hand » would appear to be rather inappropriate, but such is the paradox inherent in many names).

Figure 7 *The area of the mouth of Portobello Stream, east of Fredericton, where such terms as* reach, lead, thoroughfare, swamp, meadow, rim *and* ridge *are illustrated.*



[7] Correspondence with Meredith BURRILL, October 9, 1968.

[8] GANONG, W.F. (1918), *A Dictionary of Topographical Terms Used in New Brunswick.* Saint John, New Brunswick Museum. Unpublished manuscript.

Reach

Long narrow stretches of water in St. John River valley are known as *reaches.* The best example is Long Reach which extends for 18 miles from the mouth of Nerepis River to Belleisle Bay. It was originally named Longue Vue by the French. Near the mouth of Portobello Stream is Portobello Reach (see figure 7). West of Fredericton the various stretches of Mactaquac Lake, which was established in 1967, have been christened Glooscap Reach, Coac Reach, Pokiok Reach, Shogomoc Reach, Meductic Reach and Woodstock Reach.

Stretch

The term *stretch* is used in several names for especially straight portions of rivers. Both Big Tracadie and Tabusintac Rivers in northeastern New Brunswick have a Long Stretch, and on Upsalquitch River is Long Lookum Stretch. The term is commonly used to describe sections of rivers in fishing leases.

Channel

Relatively narrow water bodies joining larger water bodies are frequently called *channels* in New Brunswick. Grand Manan Channel between Grand Manan Island and Campobello Island is an example of a large channel. Hovey Channel on the Southwest Miramichi near Doaktown is an example of a channel associated with a river (See figure 4).

Passage

Passage is used in the same sense as channel for narrow water bodies joining larger ones along the sea coast. Examples are Letete Passage and Doyles Passage between islands in Passamaquoddy Bay. The French term *passe* occurs in northeastern New Brunswick and the translated name Grand Pass is west of Fredericton (See figure 6).

Gully

The North Shore from Miscou Island to Buctouche has several impressive inbowed sand bars, which have many breaks through them called *gullies.* Examples are Tabusintac Gully and Big Tracadie River Gully. The term is derived from the French « goulet », a term used by the French-speaking residents. (*Gully* is also noted below under terrain depression features).

Thoroughfare

Thoroughfare is a term used in southern New Brunswick to describe channels joining two bodies of water at the same, or almost the same elevation. The Oxford International Dictionary notes this usage as early as 1699.

Grand Lake is joined to Maquapit Lake by Lower Thoroughfare, and Maquapit Lake is joined to French Lake by both Main Thoroughfare and Blind Thoroughfare, the latter being somewhat contradictory in its juxtaposition of words (See figure 7). Between Grand Manan Island and Ross Island is The Thoroughfare.

Canal

The natural passage between Lake Utopia and Magaguadavic River is called The Canal, and a small community there is known as Canal. The word is also used for the artificial tidal canals in the Tantramar Marshes.

Dugway

Small artificial passages cut through intervales east of Fredericton are frequently designated *dugways,* Morrows Dugway, which connects Oromocto River with Sunpoke Lake, is an example.

Chokey

Immediately west of Fredericton are two narrow channels between islands called Big Chokey and Little Chokey (See figure 6). The term *chokey* may imply that floating logs become lodged too easily in them, or it may have an obscure origin from Maliseet or Micmac and became familiarized into a word with an apparent meaning.

Gut

The Gut is the name of a narrow channel of water between two islands west of Fredericton (see figure 6). *Gut* also occurs in the name Coys Gut, a body of water with two entrances adjacent to Grand Lake.

Runround

Sluggish channels behind islands adjacent to rivers are known as *runrounds* in three widely dispersed locations in New Brunswick. Near Forks of Tobique is Mamozekel Runround, an alternative outlet of Mamozekel River. Cranberry Brook, which flows into the west side of Magaguadavic Lake and Clarence Stream, which flows into Digdeguash Lake, each has a feature called a *runround.*

FLAT TERRAIN FEATURE TERMS

New Brunswick has a large variety of terms for flat terrain features, with many of them relating to the presence of water. There appear to be some regional differences in usage of some terms. Residents in one area may call something a « marsh » and people in other areas may designate a similar feature a « meadow », a « plain » a « bog » or a « barren ». Difficulties

in differentiating between them is apparent as early as 1828 in the Journal of the House of Assembly when regulations were drawn up « for grazing and depasturing of the several Marshes, Lowlands or Meadows » within Westmorland County. [9]

Marsh

The best known use of *marsh* in New Brunswick is in the name Tantramar Marshes at Sackville, which are really bogs. The term is used for similar features in the Moncton and Newcastle areas, once near Gagetown and once on Grand Manan Island.

Meadow

One of the commonest terms used for flat and moist terrain is *meadow.* In the area of tidal Oromocto River it occurs in fourteen names. In an arc from Newcastle to Campbellton are six upland features identified as *meadows.* The French *pré* and *prairie* are used in some names along the North Shore for similar features. Near Tracadie is a small area called La Meddy à Colas, « meddy » being an Acadian adaptation of meadow.

Barren

Eight features in northern and central New Brunswick have names approved with the term *barren.* Such features are not unlike the upland meadows with their flat moist terrain and low growth. The term is often heard in the compound generics « cranberry barren » and « blueberry barren ».

Mocauque

The cranberry barren of the Acadians is called a *mocauque,* a word derived from the Micmac. It occurs in several names in the area of Richibucto, the larger ones being Mocauque de la Pointe-Sapin and Grand mocauque Rond.

Heath

In three areas of the province, northwest of Grand Lake, near McAdam and on Grand Manan Island, *heath* is used for flat, wet areas with low vegetation. Zelinsky, in his paper on terms used in northeastern United States, observed that *heath* was evidently not used in New Brunswick, but Canadian maps published at the time he wrote his paper had names with the term. [10] Its use has been noted as early as 1785 in land petitions filed in the New Brunswick Public Archives.

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[9] *Journal of the House of Assembly,* 1828, 37.

[10] *Op. cit.,* 338.

Plain

In central and northwestern New Brunswick the term *plain,* and its French equivalent, *plaine,* are used to describe relatively flat areas, with some being well wooded (although such features may have had low or no vegetation when they were named). In northeastern New Brunswick *plain* and *plaine* are also used for features similar to « barren » and « mocauque », an example being Hells Gate Plain southeast of Chatham.

Bog

The term *bog* occurs in the names of seven widely dispersed features in southern New Brunswick. Much of the land at the head of Canaan River northwest of Moncton is flat and wet with low vegetation and here the term *bog* is more prominent than any of the other wetland terms.

Swamp

A prominent feature between Grand Lake and St. John River is Ash Swamp (see figure 7). Other features with the term are Beechman Swamp and Long Swamp, both between Nackawic and Woodstock.

Flats

Seasonally flooded low land adjacent to features of flowing water are sometimes called *flat,* and occasionally *flats* in New Brunswick. Examples are Sharps Flat and Phillips Flat just north of Woodstock beside the St. John River, and McCarty Flats near Boiestown. *Flats* is also a term used for shallow areas adjacent to the coast, such as New Horton Flats near the mouth of Petitcodiac River. The relative French word for such a feature is *batture,* as in Grande Batture on the northwest side of Shippegan Island. Similar shallow features are also called *placers* by French-speaking people. *Flat* also occurs in the name Kyle Flat, a generally even terrain surrounded by rolling hills in Alma Parish, and Madden Flats, a similar feature in Waterford Parish.

Intervale

Intervale is more common than « flats » for seasonally flooded land adjacent to flowing water features. Many *intervales* provide luxuriant grass, hay and garden crops. The best known example is The Intervale at Sheffield east of Fredericton. Others are Mistake Intervale in the Long Reach of the St. John River, Reickers Intervale beside Belleisle Bay at Hatfield Point and Pickards Intervale at the mouth of the Keswick River.

Platin

Platin is an Acadian term that describes a feature similar to an « intervale ». It is used in names in the Edmundston area, examples being Platin de Saint-Hilaire and Platin de Saint-Basile.

ELEVATED TERRAIN FEATURE TERMS

Mount and Mountain

The standard criterion for *mount* and *mountain* is 1 000 feet of local relief. In New Brunswick some features designated *mount* and *mountain* are mere hills with relief of 300 to 500 feet, such as Lutes Mountain and Indian Mountain north of Moncton, and Curries Mountain west of Fredericton. The highest mountain in New Brunswick, at 2 690 feet, is Mount Carleton, but its local relief is only 1 500 feet. The distinction usually made between these two terms is to use *mount* for personal names and *mountain* for non-personal and inanimate objects. While many personal names are used with *mountain,* such as Crabbe Mountain and Poley Mountain, the term *mount* is also occasionally used with inanimate objects, examples being Mount Pleasant and Mont Farlagne. The French terms *mont* and *montagne* are commonly used.

Hill

The term *hill* is restricted to steep road inclines of less than 500 feet of local relief. Examples are Beech Hill at Sackville, Oil Hill south of Moncton, Maryland Hill in Fredericton and Klokledahl Hill in New Denmark. The relative French term used is *colline.*

Ridge

The term *ridge* has wide usage throughout New Brunswick, especially in the southwestern county, Charlotte. No less than 38 populated places have the term as part of their names. Examples are Pomeroy Ridge and Pleasant Ridge in Charlotte, Golden Ridge and Skedaddle Ridge in Carleton and Parker Ridge and Bloomfield Ridge in York. *Ridge* has also been retained in French-speaking areas, examples near Rogersville being Shediac Ridge, Pleasant Ridge and Young Ridge.

Peak

The term *peak* is prominently used in the Keswick River and Nackawic Stream valleys between Fredericton and Woodstock. These peaks are steep granitic protusions and volcanic hills rising from slates. Distinctive landscape features include Howard Peak, Mularchy Peak and Spruce Peak.

The relative French term is *pointu,* which is used in the names Pointu de la Rivière-Verte near Edmundston and Nez Pointu east of Bathurst.

Bluff

The term *bluff* occurs both in names of features that have abrupt local relief and in those of steep mountain masses rising from the surrounding terrain. An example of the first is Barlows Bluff in Kingston Peninsula north of Saint John ; of the latter, Martins Bluff in the central part of the province overlooking Tuadook Lake.

Rock

Rock, in the sense of an elevated feature, occurs in such names as Eagle Rock and Bailey Rock, both between Saint John and Fredericton. (See below under terrain features associated with water for other uses).

Brow

Brow, in the sense of an abrupt slope beside a river, occurs in two names of places where logs are piled during the winter.

Back

The Horseback is the name of four different features in the province. As well there is the name Boars Back for a ridge south of Moncton.

Butte

Butte appears in several names in French-speaking areas, examples being Butte d'Or and Butte à Morrison between Bathurst and Tracadie.

Côte

Côte à Blanchette is a prominent hill north of Edmundston.

Ledge

Although *ledge* is better known for submerged rocks along the coasts of the Maritime Provinces, it also identifies elevated terrain features. The Ledges is in York County near the Maine border and Lydias Ledge and Red Ledges are on the east side of Lake Utopia in Charlotte County.

Knoll

Red Pine Knoll is a hill southwest of Bathurst, and Spruce Knoll is in Brighton Parish, Carleton County.

Rim

A small ridge adjacent to Portobello Stream in Sheffield Parish is known as Maple Rim (see figure 7).

Mound

Pillings Mound is a small island in Spednic Lake adjacent to the Maine border. It was likely named because it rises abruptly from the lake.

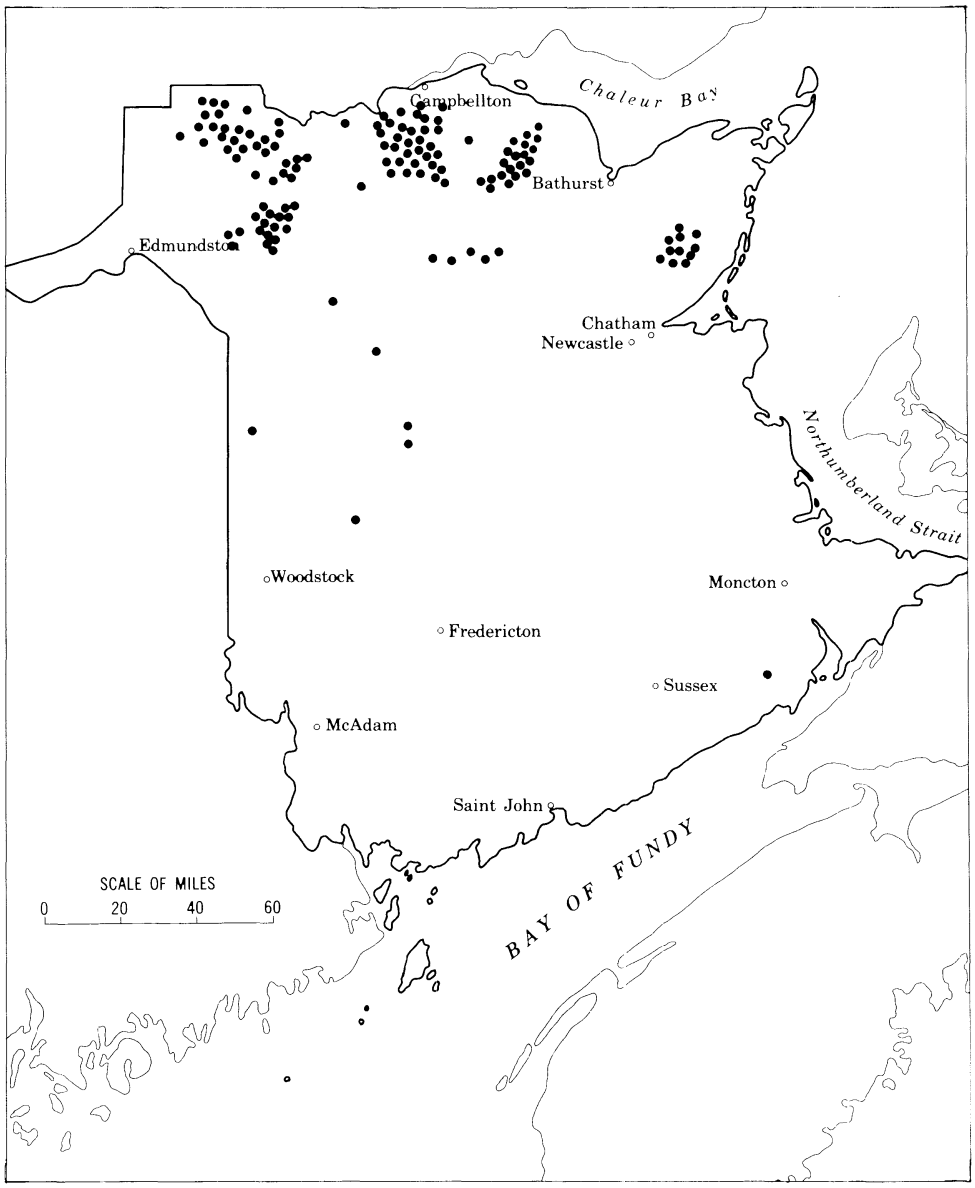
TERRAIN DEPRESSION FEATURE TERMS

Gulch

Before beginning the New Brunswick toponymic survey this writer believed that the term *gulch* applied to features in western North America

which figured largely in the stories of Zane Grey and Bret Harte. It was surprising to find this term in 136 geographical names in northern New Brunswick, principally in the Restigouche watershed (figure 8). The term is also used by French-speaking persons in eastern New Brunswick. However, in the Saint-Quentin area southwest of Campbellton, which was largely settled by French-speaking farmers from Québec, the term *coulée* is used for the

Figure 8 *Gulch*



same kind of a feature. Features with the terms *gulch* and *coulée* are usually abrupt declivities in the landscape, and usually do not have distinct names for flowing water features in them. In most instances, if a river or brook has a name, there is no specific name for its gulch.

Hollow

East of Sussex there are several names of features with the term *hollow.* Among them are Whitenect Hollow and Will DeMille Hollow.

Valley

Valley is used in a general way to describe terrain depression but rarely occurs in specific names. Two examples are Dutch Valley east of Sussex and Pine Valley in Charlotte County.

Vale

Vale is used in the name of populated place, Portage Vale. Sussex was formerly called Sussex Vale, and the basin there used to be called the Vale of Sussex.

Cove

West of Sussex some terrain depression features used to be called *coves ;* the term survives in the populated place names Drurys Cove and Lower Cove.

Gorge

North of Moncton a deep declivity in Lutes Mountain is called The Gorge, and a watercourse there is Gorge Brook. Southeast Gorge is on the Southeast Upsalquitch River.

Gully

Gully occurs in the name, The Gully, a terrain depression at Woodstock, and in Inman Gully and Patterson Gully Brook southeast of Perth-Andover.

Vault

The term *vault* occurs in Nova Scotia to describe deep ravines. In Fundy National Park are two features called Second Vault Brook and Third Vault Brook.

Notch

Lower Notch and Upper Notch are declivities in Red Rock Ridge northeast of Lake Utopia.

Fosse

The term *fosse,* a French word for a declivity, occurs in Fosse de Cran, a feature near Big Tracadie River.

TERRAIN FEATURE TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER

Island

Traditionally *island* applies to a land feature surrounded by water, and New Brunswick has numerous examples of this use. However, *island* is also used for land features surrounded wholly or partly by marsh. Examples are Coles Island near Sackville, Dorchester Island at Dorchester and French Island shown on figure 7. The most prominent example is Taylors Island west of Saint John, which until recently, was approved as Taylor Peninsula, because the names authority did not regard the feature as a true island. [11] The relative French term is *île. Ilette* occurs once in French for îlette de Pokesudie near Caraquet. However, the relative English term, *islet,* is not used in the province, irrespective of its occurrence on maps and charts adjacent to Campobello and Deer Islands. However, the name Riordan Islets has recently been given to some mounds in Mactaquac Lake ; these mounds were created in 1967 when top soil was piled up during excavation of gravel deposits on Riordan Island ; when Mactaquac Lake rose behind Mactaquac Dam the piles of soil remained.

Rock

Rock is used both for land surrounded by water and for land completely covered by water either periodically or entirely. Gannet Rock is a prominent feature south of Grand Manan Island with the first usage ; there are a large number of named *rocks* partly or wholly covered by water around Grand Manan Island. The French term *roche* is also used in northeastern New Brunswick.

Ledge

The term *ledge* occurs frequently in the Bay of Fundy for submerged rocky features. Maces Bay Ledges are well known, and others are Charleys Ledge and Hoopers Ledge.

Shoal

Some shallow features in coastal waters are known by the term *shoal.* Among them are Green Island Shoal and Popes Shoal in the area of Passamaquoddy Bay.

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[11] A similar use applies near Cornwall, Ontario, where the Indian Affairs Branch had to seek a legal opinion whether such a feature may be included among « islands » reserved for Indians.

Cap

A few water features in the Bay of Fundy have such names as Thumb Cap and Squaws Cap. Those now approved as Thumb Cap were previously identified on maps and charts as Thrum Cap and Thrumcap Island, but such usage is now unknown, confirming Burrill's conclusion that any function « thrumcap may have had as a designator of islands with particular characteristics, e.g., looking like a fisherman's headgear, seems to have disappeared » [12].

Nub and Nubbles

Very small islands in Passamaquoddy Bay are frequently called *nubs,* and one has the specific designation, The Nub. Some islands in Spednic Lake near McAdam are described as The Nubbles, and The Nubble is an island in Harbour de Lute adjacent to Campobello Island.

Bar

Bar is used for several sandy features in watercourses periodically covered by water. Examples are Burpee Bar west of Fredericton and Sand Plum Bar near Boiestown in the Southwest Miramichi River (see figures 4 and 6). The French equivalent is *dune,* as in Dune de Maisonnette near Caraquet.

Beach

The term *beach* occurs in many names such as Saints Rest Beach in Saint John and Parlee Beach near Shediac. The French generic *plage* is used by Francophones.

Point

An extremity of land extending into water is commonly designated *point* in English and *pointe* in French, and such usage is widely employed in New Brunswick. In addition, the term is also used for entire land features extending into water such as Fergusons Point near Tracadie and Hinckley Point west of McAdam, which on maps appear more like peninsulas. The terms *peninsula* and *presqu'île* are not used in geographical names.

Cape

The extremities of prominent land features extending into water are frequently designated *cape* in New Brunswick. Examples are Cape Spencer and Cape Enrage adjacent to the Bay of Fundy, and Cape Tormentine and Grindstone Cape adjacent to Gulf of St. Lawrence waters. The French *cap* is used for similar features, examples being Cap Cocagne and Cap Lumière.

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[12] BURRILL, Meredith, (1956), Toponymic Generics. *Names,* 4 (4): 231, 232.

Head

Abrupt and prominent land features extending into water are often called *head.* Grand Manan Island has both Southern Head and North Head, and Martin Head is a prominent feature near Fundy National Park. The comparable French *tête* does not appear in any geographical names, such features usually being called *cap* in that language.

Neck

Some prominent land features extending into water are known as *necks.* Among these are The Neck north of Rothesay, and Lower and Upper Palfrey Necks northwest of McAdam, which separate Palfrey Lake from Spednic Lake.

Narrows

Constricted places in seven watercourses are called The Narrows in New Brunswick. Letang River has its Pull and Be Damned Narrows. In addition, numerous watercourses are called Narrows Brook.

Gate

Gate also describes constricted places in some rivers, examples being Hells Gates on Nashwaak River and Hells Gate Rapids on Cains River.

Jaws

The Jaws occurs as the name of a constricted place in both the Dungarvon and Nashwaak Rivers. In each of Oromocto and South Oromocto Lakes there is a main part separated from the feature called The Basin by a narrow entrance called The Jaws.

Bend

Bend occurs as the generic term in the names of three features in New Brunswick. These are Maple Bend adjacent to the Oromocto River, Horseshoe Bends on Cains River and Price Bend on Clearwater Brook, the latter two being tributaries of Southwest Miramichi River.

Turn and Turns

Fergusons Turn is a river bend on Upsalquitch River and Round Turn a bend near the mouth of Nackawic Stream. The term *turns* appears in two names in the province, once in Cherry Turns on Salmon River and another in Round Turns on Coal Creek, both of these water features being tributary to Grand Lake.

Elbow

In the compound form Devils Elbow occurs on the Nepisiguit River, on the North Branch Kedgwick River and on the Tabusintac River.

Oxbow

The Oxbow occurs as a description where Tobique, Little Southwest Miramichi, Kennebecasis, and Salmon (east of Chipman) Rivers have marked turns in their courses. There is also a feature called The Oxbow on Loders Creek southwest of Grand Lake (see Figure 7). Lower Oxbow and Upper Oxbow are features on Point Wolfe River.

Forks

Besides describing actual watercourses, the term *forks* occurs where major confluents meet. Examples are Forks of Tobique [13], Napadogan Forks and Smith Forks, the last being at the junction of Tuadook River and Little Southwest Miramichi River.

WATER FEATURE TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH TERRAIN

Falls

Where water falls precipitously the term *falls* is used. On rivers having no vertical falls, such as Nepisiguit River, the term *falls* supplants rapids, as in the five-mile long Indian Falls. Both *chute* and *saut* are used by French-speaking people for similar features.

Rapids and Rips

Rapids and the French *rapide* are commonly used in New Brunswick except for rivers draining into the Bay of Fundy west of Saint John, where *rips* is the common term. St. Croix River has, among others, Wingdam Rips and Pork Rips, and Magaguadavic River has Indian Rips and Stones Rips.

CONCLUSION

The province of New Brunswick, although small in relation to the size of Canada, has an impressive array of descriptive terminology for its landscape phenomena. The contributions from the English language are particularly marked, often providing twice as many generics for similar kinds of phenomena as are derived from French. For flowing water features there are no less than ten different terms. Thirty distinct terms are used for stationary water features, and almost all of them are used by English-speaking people. Flat terrain is described by twelve terms with some of them having special regional connotations within the province. For elevated features there are thirteen generics in English, five in French. No less than nine different terms are used for terrain depression features in English, while only the French

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[13] The small community at Forks of Tobique is called Nictau, the Maliseet word for « forks ».

coulée and *fosse* occur. There is also a variety of other terms used for terrain features associated with water, and water features associated with land.

Although one may be impressed with the variety of toponymic generics, one cannot help observe that many terms have two, and sometimes more, definitions. Among them are :

a) *river* for both a watercourse and a tidal channel ;

b) *creek* for both a watercourse and a tidal inlet ;

c) *cove* for both land and water features ;

d) *rock* for an abrupt bluff, an island and a submerged water feature ;

e) *flat* for a dry upland feature and a feature periodically flooded by water ;

and f) *gully* for both land and water features.

An interesting aspect of New Brunswick's generic terminology is the utilization of words derived from the Amerindian languages. The term *bogan* is widely used for a small inlet beside flowing water, *padou* is used considerably less for a similar kind of feature, and *mocauque* describes several barrens in the eastern part of the province.

Many of the terms occurring in New Brunswick would be quite useful for the description of currently unidentified phenomena in other parts of Canada. *Brook* could quite usefully serve for the smallest in a series of watercourse terms, and *stream* could identify a watercourse longer than a creek but shorter than a river. Several of the wetland terms, such as *heath* and *meadow,* could be introduced elsewhere to describe flat terrain features that are not botanically *bogs* and have less moisture content than *swamps* or *marshes*. *Bogan* might be a quite acceptable term for backwater channels adjacent to flowing water in other parts of Canada.

ABSTRACT

Characteristics of Toponymic Generics in New Brunswick

New Brunswick has a large variety of toponymic terminology including ten generics for flowing water, thirty for stationary water, twelve for flat terrain, eighteen for elevated features, and eleven for terrain depressions. Although the variety is impressive certain terms describe vastly different kinds of features, such as *gully* for both a terrain depression and a narrow coastal water channel.

The English language has been the source of ninety of the 132 terms discussed in this paper, with the remainder from the French language, except *bogan, padou* and *mocauque,* which have been derived from Amerindian sources.

Many of the terms occur only in certain areas, such as *bogan* and *gulch* in the north part of the province, and *heath* and *thoroughfare* in southern New Brunswick. There are also some regional differences in the description of landscape phenomena, examples being *meadow* near Oromocto and *marsh* near Sackville identifying similar features.

RÉSUMÉ

Caractéristiques des génériques toponymiques au Nouveau-Brunswick

Le Nouveau-Brunswick possède une grande variété de terminologies toponymiques incluant jusqu'à 10 génériques pour les eaux courantes, 30 pour les eaux calmes, 12 pour les terrains plats, 18 pour les parties élevées et 11 pour les dépressions. Bien que cette variété soit impressionnante, un même terme peut décrire des types de phénomènes très différents, tel *gully* qui désigne à la fois une dépression et un chenal côtier étroit.

90 des 132 termes exposés dans cet article sont issus de la langue anglaise, les autres appartenant à la langue française, à l'exception de *bogan, padou* et *mocauque,* dérivés de sources amérindiennes.

Un bon nombre de toponymes ne se retrouvent que dans certaines parties du territoire, tels *bogan* et *gulch* au nord de la province, et *heath* et *thoroughfare* au sud du Nouveau-Brunswick. Il y a aussi quelques divergences régionales dans la description des traits du paysage, ainsi *meadow* près d'Oromocto et *marsh* près de Sackville identifient des phénomènes identiques.